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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: GERARD VANACKER ET AL. Docket No.: 01-765
Serial No.: 10/019,715 Examiner :
Filed : December 28, 2001 Art Unit :
For : FIXING ELEMENT AND ANCILLARY
FOR STABILISING VERTEBRAE

900 Chapel Street
Suite 1201
New Haven, CT 06510-2802

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
United States Patent & Trademark Office
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Prior to the initial office action in the above-captioned application, please amend said application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Amend pages 1, 4, and 7 of the specification as shown in the attached marked-up and clean copies of pages 1, 1A, 4, 4A, 7, and 7A.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel claims 1-12 without prejudice.

Add new claims 13-24 as shown in the attached Appendix.

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Add the Abstract as shown in the attached Appendix.